

ON THE CULTURE OF THE GRAPE.

Having cultivated the grape near the Rhine, in Germany, and also for a number of years in Missouri, I ask to be permitted to communicate to the public some of my experience. First and foremost to the well-being of this valuable fruit, is a suitable climate,—next to this, a suitable soil, and lastly, proper treatment and culture. Those latitudes in Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia, within which the vine flourishes are from 20 to 48 degrees, north. Beyond these points, north or south, the countries appear too hot or too cold. It is generally conceded that where the peach thrives, the vine will also thrive. However, there is one considerable difference in respect to the grape—it is this: while the peach thrives in those latitudes equally well in the interior countries, the grape flourishes best in the vicinity of large bodies of water and more especially of salt water. Thus, we find the most genial growth of the grape in the Azores, the Canary Islands, the coasts of the Mediterranean, and upon the banks of the Black and Caspian seas. There are, perhaps, few plants which evaporate moisture at so great a rate, and also, in return, feed so largely through the means of their fine large leaves upon the atmosphere, as the vine—the moisture of the sea furnishes a constant supply, and that of a saline nature, which is so essential to this plant. The suitable latitude within the United States, east of the Rocky Mountains, is probably from 38 degrees south to the Mexican Gulf; on the Pacific, probably within the same latitudes of Europe. Mexico has fine grape countries throughout its whole dominion, upon its elevated table lands; for instance, the Valley of Mexico under latitude 20 degrees, with a climate similar to European latitudes of 40. On the Peak of Tenerife, in 32 degrees north, the vine grows 9,500 feet above the level of the Atlantic! Upon the whole, it only flourishes within the most temperate zones. In the Cape Colony, about 30 south, grows the famous Constantia vine.

Next, as to the soil. The thricest plants and the best flavored wines grow upon volcanic remains—on Mount Etna grows the famous Lachryma Christi. The finest Rhish wines grow upon basalt. The California coast, altogether a volcanic country, and situated upon the great Pacific, is becoming more and more favorably known as a vine land and must be the very fatherland of this fine fruit. Parts of Oregon may also be suitable. Next to the volcanic, any porous soil of sufficient depth, say four feet, and based upon limestone, is best. A very rich vegetable mould is detrimental to the plant; it is fond, however, of stable manure, bones, oyster shells, lime, ashes, and an occasional sprinkling of salt around it. A stiff, soil and sub-soil and any other that becomes like plaster in hot weather is injurious to the plant. A hilly situation is generally preferable to the plains.

Improper treatment will defeat the well-being of the plant in the best adapted soil and climate. Although the treatment must vary, according to both, still, there exist some general rules. Proper pruning and trimming seem to be the principal part of it. The following rules will apply to all countries: Prune your vines after the fall of the leaves in autumn—get rid of as much old wood as possible—expect fruit only from shoots of the previous season—do not leave too much bearing wood, but proportion it to its power of maturing the fruit. In summer pruning, cut off every shoot that has fruit three leaves above the last bunch of grapes, and leave only a few strong shoots, which must be without fruit, and never trim them during their growth, but tie and train them carefully to their whole length, and in autumn, after all the foliage has fallen, trim off close to the stem every shoot that has borne fruit. Take your long shoots from as near the ground as you can raise them, and prune them in the fall of every side shoot or lateral branch, leaving only the centre one to its full length, as far as the buds are full and round and the wood well matured. Train horizontally and not vertically, if it can be avoided, and never cut a single leaf to bear your fruit, and expose every branch to a full atmospheric influence. Training one branch across, or over another, will deprive the lower one of its functions; never train your shoots in, but always outside of your trellises. Allow no vegetables or roots of trees to grow near your vines, which will deprive them of any of their proper sustenance.

Very few European vines will succeed in the United States. The air in the interior is too dry and arid. The leaves of my foreign vines are only one-third the size of the same varieties in Europe; and in the latter part of July, they are frequently scorched up, and fall. In August, the plant is often deprived of its entire foliage; then in September, it takes a second growth—the immature wood is killed the succeeding winter; the plant fingers and dies after a few seasons. There are but two out of my twenty European varieties, which succeed well, and they belong to the Burgundy species; however, they require protection in the winter. We must look to the improved native varieties, and particularly to such as will be improved through seed. By the admixture of the pollen of our best vines—say the Catawba and White Scuppernon—we will, in time, produce a number of new varieties, some of them certainly, entirely adapted to our climate, and of better quality than the northern plants. A good grape ought to be devoid of pulps, possess a very thin skin, full of sweet, lively luscious juice, and not subject to blight or rot. The Isabella grape has neither of those qualities, and is, upon the whole, a worthless grape. The Catawba is much superior to it, and perhaps so far as discovered the best native fruit. It would, however, bear no comparison to the table grapes of Europe. The Scuppernon, of North Carolina, is said to be a fine grape. I have two varieties, black and white, but neither of them have borne fruit yet, so as to permit me to judge of it. I have also many seedlings, but too young to bear.

The Catawba is successfully cultivated about Cincinnati, and the wine made from it compares favorably with third-rate Spanish wines. Mr. Herbermont, of South Carolina, prefers, and raises also, I believe, the Catawba, with success. The culture of the vine in the United States is hardly in its infancy. From North Carolina south to Louisiana, wherever there are high or hilly grounds, not too far from the coasts, are certainly best adapted to many of our native varieties, which may be greatly multiplied and improved by culture. From the one kind, *Vitis Vinifera*, a native of Persia, spring the five hundred varieties which are

spread over Europe, Asia and Africa; but it took more than two hundred years before the vine would grow at all in the northern parts of France and Germany, after its first introduction, while in those very parts the most celebrated Rhish and Burgundy wines are now produced. The plant had to be first acclimated, and was most probably so through the seed. And while the old world thus contained but one species of the vine, the botanists distinguish four distinct native species, as *Vitis Labrusca*, *Vitis Vulpina*, *Vitis Serotina*, and *Vitis Silvestris* in North America. May we not therefore, reasonably hope, that a great number of varieties will spring from them, which will, in time, favorably compare with the best European varieties? The average value of wines of France alone, are one hundred and fifty millions of dollars per annum! What an important branch of agriculture! How important in a moral point of view! The most temperate people in the world are those in vine countries; people who raise and drink the pure juice of the grape are livelier, live longer, and are more frugal than those who are deprived of this great blessing of mother nature. Compare the happy villagers of France to their neighbors, the Irish—the sprightly inhabitant of the Rhine, to the clumsy beer and whisky drinker of northern Europe. Let our temperate votaries propagate the culture of the vine, and they will strike at the root of the evil—the abominable whisky!

Yet, a few general remarks as to the culture of nature's best gift. Although extreme wet is injurious to the vine, the hot and extremely dry seasons of our interior country are, perhaps, worse; a parched soil and atmosphere arid and scorching, is very detrimental to the plant. A deep porous sub-soil, formed even of rocks, pebbles and sand, is essentially to permit the roots to penetrate the ground to a greater depth in quest of moisture, as for the same reasons the immediate vicinity of our large streams, on suitable soil, is generally preferable. I would for similar reasons, prefer a northern exposure; next to an eastern, and last of all a western. The vicinity of forests is injurious to the plant; it likes, however, a situation sheltered from the action of violent winds, which derange its foliage and exhaust the vine by too powerful an evaporation. Court-yards in cities are favorable to it, on account of the shelter which they afford, and from the humidity that arises from them. In narrow valleys, or near small branches, runs and gullies, among hilly situations in these latitudes, the grape cannot be raised, as the spring and fall frosts destroy every hope of fruit along such places. But in open champagne countries, and more southern latitudes, the vicinity of any water course is favorable.

A SKETCH FROM REAL LIFE.—“Direct Smith to have the store-houses put in order to-day,” said a portly gentleman to a servant whom he had, as was his daily custom, summoned to receive his morning directions. “One of Smith’s children died last night,” said the servant. He spoke in a low tone of voice, and with some hesitancy as though he thought there might be some impropriety in communicating such a piece of common place information, to so important a personage as his master.

“Aye—Well, it won’t be buried this morning.—The store-houses must be in complete readiness before the arrival of some articles, which I have ordered from the city, and which will be sent tomorrow.”

As this was the last of the series of directions, the servant bowed and withdrew. On his way to the servant’s room, his steps were arrested by a beautiful bright-eyed boy, whose cheeks were glowing with health, but over whose fair brow a shadow had now stolen.

“Did you know little Walter Smith was dead, Ralph?” asked the child, in a low and grieving tone of voice.

“Yes,” replied the servant. “He died last night.”

“O, I am so sorry,” said the child, “I used to love so to have him come into the yard, when his father was at work. He was always so pleasant and so bright too. How well he seemed to love his father; just as I love mine.” And as he finished speaking, the little fellow left the servant, and hurried to the parlor, where his father received him with open arms.

Several weeks sped swiftly on. The dead child had been buried, the store-houses had been duly arranged, and many a happy smile, and many an emotion of pride and joy had little Frank called forth in the hearts of his wealthy and worldly parents. But now their countenances were overcast with deep gloom, and their hearts were full of sorrow, for the object of their tenderest love and solicitude, their only and darling child, in whom had centered all their ambitious hopes, was lying cold and stiff in the arms of death.

The stricken man stood by that pale still corpse, and gazed into the features so calm and motionless, his thoughts involuntarily reverted to the morning, when he received with so much indifference the tidings of a father’s bereavement.

Henceforth there was a change. The exacting and selfish employer, had learned to sympathize, in their trials and sorrows, with his poor and lowly brethren.—(Boston Traveler.)

KEEPING HOUSE.—A young, married woman who has not had the opportunity of profiting by the advice and example of a good mother, will find some difficulty, at first in spending her money to the best advantage; for there is really an art in spending money though not in getting rid of it. Some women will keep house respectably and plentifully on one third less money than will be required by others; and without either meanness or illiberal dealing. But to do this, judgment forethought and experience are necessary. One woman shall be able to tell you how much her house keeping costs to a shilling, while another cannot even guess within ten. The former has method, rule, regularity and a certain sum assigned her; with the latter, it is all hap-hazard, it comes and it goes, she neither knows how, nor cares. And this is almost sure to be the case if the money is doled out by her husband, in a few shillings at a time.

TO DISINFECT DAIRY VESSELS OF ALL NOXIOUS ODORS.—A valuable Recipe in a few words.—Every dairy should have a vessel of lime water, say half a gallon of lime to ten or twelve gallons of water, simply to rinse every thing in. The vessel can be filled up as often as you please. It will be sure to remove all acidity or bad odor. Let dairy women remember this.

CONDITION OF THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS.—The Rev. Mr. Graves, editor of the Christian Reflector, who has been spending the winter in the West Indies, thus speaks of the condition of those islands where slavery had been abolished.

“We have heard intelligent persons in the United States express themselves as utterly unable to form a satisfactory judgment of the condition of things in the British West Indies, since the act of emancipation, so contradictory have been the reports which have reached them respecting it. A visitor here, will soon learn the occasion of this uncertainty. The people themselves, are distracted with all sorts of opinions; and whereas six years ago, it was the fashion with many to boast of unprecedented prosperity, especially with reference to the religious and social condition of the classes, it is now common and popular to represent the colonies as quite on the verge of ruin. Either view is, undoubtedly, an extreme one. It is not so easy making a fortune in Kingston as formerly, because the number of business men has greatly increased—there is more competition and less monopoly—and although grumbling is one result, the public benefit is another. The sugar manufacture of the islands has diminished, and many estates are quite neglected, while others are on the decline. And the reasons are obvious enough. The wages demanded by free laborers, though no greater than were allowed under the apprenticeship system, exceed the former cost of slave labor. At the same time, the protection which the British government granted the planters before emancipation, has been removed. Now, when it is remembered that estates frequently became bankrupt, and were allowed to decline, because they did not pay for cultivation, when no wages were paid, and protection was granted, why should we be surprised that they are unprofitable when both these advantages are taken away?”

“The blacks are not, generally, indisposed to labor; but they can do better than work on the estates for a mere pittance: they can retire a little distance to the mountains, lease or buy a few acres of land, and raise articles for the provision market, with more profit, as well as more independence and comfort, than they can hire themselves out to the planters.

To supply the deficiency of plantation laborers, large sums of money have been paid to secure the immigration of ‘Coolies’ from Southern Asia, but, from all we can learn, we infer that they have greatly disappointed the expectations of those who favored their coming. They are represented as a miserable class of beings, indolent, indifferent to their personal appearance—often going unclothed, and exceedingly avaricious and superstitious. This plan of supplying laborers, has thus proved unsatisfactory, and will not be continued. The Coolies are regarded as nuisances: they are said to have a degrading influence on the natives and to be more injurious than beneficial. They generally anticipate returning to the East Indies, but it is probable the pledges which were made to do so, will never be fulfilled. There is some talk now, about immigration from Africa, but whether any thing will be accomplished in that direction, is uncertain. The voluntary immigration of free colored persons from the United States, is deemed very desirable. They are said to make the best working people, both as it respects their moral character and their habits of industry.”

LICENSING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.—What a misnomer. Public good, forsooth. Let us look at this matter a moment. A man claiming to be respectable, and who is very rich besides, puts in a petition to the Mayor and Aldermen for a license to do the public a great good. Well, this is a queer application. Whoever reads the Bible is instructed to “do good and communicate,” already, and to any amount, without money and without price. Indeed, that, and that only, which can make an action a good one, is just the purity of the motive which suggests it. A man, who purposes to do good to his neighbor, has his authority written in ineffaceable characters upon his own soul. Now, the applicant to sell rum, gin and brandy, can know without going to the Mayor and Aldermen, whether he has authority to do so, by just consulting the voice of God within him. If that voice says to this applicant—go, my child, thou for whom my well-beloved Son laid down his life, go and reduce thy brother to want—to a state of physical and moral destitution—rob him of his senses, and alienate him from his Father;—go and do this, and great shall be thy reward in heaven;—unless he has heard such a voice, and received such a license, he will not be justified, although all the powers of earth were to commission him to do the like.—[Christian World.]

NEWSPAPERS AND POPULATION COMPARED.—We are certainly the most enlightened people under the sun, if intelligence is to be measured by the means of acquiring it, and if newspapers are to be regarded as one of these means. This is clearly demonstrated by the following statement of our population in 1840, and the number of newspapers then issued, comparing them with those of the principal nations of Europe about the same time:

Countries.	Population.	Newspapers.	No. of persons to one newspaper.
U. States.	19,000,000	1250	15,112
G. Britain.	29,000,000	480	60,416
France.	34,000,000	250	136,000
Prussia.	15,000,000	288	52,080
Holland.	3,633,000	150	24,220
Belgium.	3,250,000	62	52,420
Denmark.	2,000,000	80	25,000
Switzerland.	2,100,000	30	70,000
Spain.	14,000,000	12	1,166,000
Portugal.	3,800,000	17	223,000
Russia in Europe.	42,000,000	84	500,000
Austria.	33,000,000	91	362,000

[Boston Atlas.]

A PROPHECY.—The Duke of Northumberland, in conversation one day, with Lord Mansfield, spoke of the comfort of reading the newspapers at breakfast. “The comfort of reading the newspapers,” said Lord Mansfield, “mark my words: you and I shall not live to see it, but sooner or later, these newspapers, if they go on as they do now, will most assuredly write down the Dukes of Northumberland out of their titles and possessions, and the country out of its King. Mark my words, for this will happen.”

Those who respect themselves will be honorable; but he who thinks lightly of himself will be held cheap by the world.

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, JAN. 22, 1848.

A new Mexican newspaper, *La Razon*, contends that if when they had an army of more than 20,000 men with 80 or 100 pieces of artillery, it was a question whether peace should be made or not, after uninterrupted routes—defeats at the very gates of the capital, and the occupation of the capital itself, there could no longer be a doubt that peace ought to be made. It recommended that attempts should be made to reopen negotiations with Mr. Trist.

But *La Razon* forgets that Mexico at that time had no government with whom Mr. Trist could treat. Even against the Provisional President, Pena y Pena, some contended that Santa Anna had no power to appoint him, and others that he had a suit pending which disqualified him, according to the constitution.

The Republicano of the 14th October designates Paredes as a stupid man, a traitor, the author of the most execrable revolt, publishing a letter from Tulancingo, accusing him of having brought instructions from Europe to establish a Monarchy, and of having despatched secret emissaries throughout the Republic with that object.

Thus while the Mexicans, theoretically are preaching up Union and patriotism, practically, civil dissension is every where raising its Hydra head; every man leaves to his neighbor to practice the virtues he recommends, reserving to himself the right to push the interests of his own party, indulge his own passions, and put money into his own pocket on all possible occasions, and in all imaginable ways. The Mexican editors themselves admit this, yet lament the loss of a “Nationality,” which producing such fruits, and these only, cannot be considered either an honor or a blessing. It is in the order of things and in the fate of mankind, that degenerate and corrupt races should disappear before or merge into races of superior virtue and energy. It has been so since the world began, and most likely will be so while man exists on the earth. Even in Great Britain, the parent of those “conquering Americans,” that some of the Mexicans represent as quite “invincible,” the race of ancient Britons, after long training by the Romans, had to yield themselves and their lands to Saxons, Angles, Danes, and lastly, to Normans. By these changes the English nation was not extinguished, but improved; and so it may be with the Mexicans, after years of domination by the United States. That it would be the interest of the great mass of the population to be under that domination, there can be no doubt but that it would suit the United States to admit them, is matter of great doubt. We may be wrong, but we do not see that the constitution of the United States allows them to hold foreign conquests unless it be in the shape of Sovereign States admitted into the Union. The admission of one or two conquered States might not disturb the already nicely poised equilibrium between the Northern and Southern States, the Eastern and the Western, but the case would be otherwise, were the great Federal Union to admit the following Mexican States which were declared sovereign under the Act of Federation, of the 4th of October, 1824, (“the 4th year of Independence, the 3d of liberty, and the 3d of Federation.”) viz: Chiapas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Texas, Durango, Guanajuato, Mexico, Michoacan, Nuevo Leon, Oajaca, Puebla, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, and Sinaloa, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Vera Cruz, Jalisco, Yucatan, and Zacatecas, besides the following Territories: Alta California, Baja California, Colima, Santa Fe of New Mexico, and Tlaxcala, which was left to be, thereafter, constitutionally settled. The Mexicans have returned to that constitutional arrangement, as their last political transformation, thereby establishing the converse of the maxim, “la union fait la force.” Were the Americans bent on conquest, which they disdain, their policy in Mexico would naturally be, “Divide et impera.” The first, the Mexicans have done to their hand, placing themselves so far as they are able, in the position most favorable for the Americans to exercise empire over them. A Federal Republic in Mexico was ever quite as much an Utopia as the institutions of China would be in the United States. The whole history of the last 27 years proves this, and that if it be true that Paredes desires to introduce monarchy, he has at least this to say, in favor of his system, that as a colonial dependency of the monarchy of Spain, Mexico did progress, and that greatly, while as a Republic, whether federal or central, she has uniformly retrograded, and that in the whole sittings of her Congresses and Senates, scarcely an instance exists of enlightened legislation carried out practically, upon any matter of agriculture, manufacturing industry, commerce, revenue, public credit, justice, or even military defence.

But though the Mexicans have been such under their own rulers, it does not follow that after being once organized as States under the American Union, they may not change their character, and become as good Republicans as the Spanish inhabitants of Florida and Louisiana. As parts of the American Union, their practice would have to conform to their theories, (a virtue which the Mexicans have never yet learned under any of their own governments); any attempt at revolution would be energetically and promptly repressed; example and necessity would make the Mexicans industrious—the value of the land and its products would increase—every man would be sure of the fruits of his own labor—the expenses of government and the interest of the national debt would be provided for by more equitable imposts faithfully collected and applied—justice would be made cheap and sure—the Mexicans would begin to feel really free to do and to possess—all that the law allowed them to do and possess—they would become a quiet, orderly, moral and energetic people—the regrets of lost nationality would be drowned in the consciousness of greater individual worth, security and happiness, and they would become fitted for any new national existence that possible changes in the grand Federal Union might give scope to.

So much for what the Mexicans might look forward to, if annexed to the United States. But we are not so clear, that the American Union itself could long stand against the admission of so many new States, or even of five or six of them. The Mexicans doubtless might derive the same advantages under a monarchy, exercised under a free constitution and supported by a strong military force. But in establishing a monarchy, it would be necessary to import a king, to import some troops to support him, and numerous foreign officers to reorganize and remodel the whole Mexican army, as Marshall Baresford did with the troops of Portugal, that afterwards fought so well in the Peninsular war. Of a Mexican army under Mexican officers, *nil desperandum*, but under foreign leaders its character would be very different. Now, for Mexican pride, it would be as great a humiliation to see a foreign Prince on the Throne—foreign guards in his Palace—foreign officers at the head of every Mexican Regiment, and in every Customhouse, even though under the national banner, as it would to annex themselves to the United States, and live under the Stars and Stripes. Besides, the latter would have the great recommendation of being the cheapest and easiest way of getting out of the war. Annexed to the United States, Mexico would only have to pay a trifling sum, perhaps nothing, and could easily provide for all debts and obligations incumbent upon the nation. But were Mexico to admit a foreign Prince, that very circumstance would indispose the Americans to make peace—an immense army would have to be supported—the public debt of Mexico would be increased, and after all, the United States, if so inclined, by making a great effort, at any time, would be able to overrun the country, thereby, bringing things back to the pass, in which they now appear to be.

In the Republicano of the 19th of October, there is a despatch from General Don Joaquin Rangel, detailing to Santa Anna as General-in-Chief, the operations of the third Brigade of Infantry of the Mexican army, on the days 12th and 13th of September. It occupies 6-1-2 columns, referring to orders received from Santa Anna during the fighting, and the manner in which they were executed. It would appear that the Brigade fought well though unsuccessfully. The repeated defeats of the Mexican army, on their own soil, with vast advantages of number, position and local resources, under their most experienced Generals, by a force composed chiefly of newly raised volunteers, must go far to convince the producing classes, or the non-military part of the Mexican population, that their boasted army when weighed in the balances is found wanting—in fact, that it is not worth the mere cost of supporting it. Yet it is not to be denied that the Mexican common soldier is brave, patient and enduring, and that properly trained and led on by brave officers, as the “seapoy” troops are in India, the Mexican troops might become formidable whether for attack or defence. But to make them so, they must be dealt with as the British did with the Portuguese army, during the French invasion.

In evidence of the different opinions which distracted the Mexicans, even after the loss of the capital, their commander-in-chief, and we may say their army, we quote from the Monitor of the 25th of October, the following:

“The day has come, as has been said in a public print, when the ruling principle to be adopted by the Republic above all others is the preservation of its nationality; but to preserve that, Union is required, and it would be vain to expect Union without a centre of unity. And where shall we find that centre, but in our fundamental laws? And what is more contrary to those laws than to search for any other centre or resorts than those which these same laws indicate? This is an undeniable truth, because if institutions are of no use to save nations in the moment of conflict, of what use are they? Those who now exert themselves to recommend extra constitutional measures, in that very fact, confess that those which are constitutional are inefficient, and thence, we would infer a deduction too fatal, viz: ergo, the federal system does not suit us, since it is absolutely inefficient to free us from the great evils which nations suffer. Is this inference to be tolerated, when in sundry official documents it has been acknowledged as that which has prevented the dissolution of the Republic, and the only organization which can save us from the evils which threaten us?”

This to us appears to be nothing more than begging the whole question. Mexico has never found a “centre of union” in the federation, and never will find it, so long as Mexican officials are to carry out that federation. It has been precisely so in the *Provincias Argentinas*, Columbia, Peru and Bolivia, and of Central America. Wherever federation has been attempted, in that portion of the American continent colonized by Spain, it has conducted only to isolation, disunion, an endless multiplicity of corrupt employes—an inextinguishable confusion of conflicting laws, interests and passions—divisions and sub-divisions, civil discord and intestine wars. It has not been so in Chile, where the principle of concentration has been preferred, and where the military have been kept under by giving to property and knowledge the weight which they ought always to have in any good constitutional government. If it have been otherwise stated in “sundry official Mexican documents,” they have asserted what all their own experience proves to be untrue—the federation did not prevent the dissolution of the Republic, but hastened that dissolution, and no conceivable political machinery could be better adapted for the annexation of State after State to the United States, and the final absorption of the whole Mexican Republic.

But the editor of the Monitor, assuming the contrary, goes on to say:—

“This being the case—to what tend the hints about a Dictatorship—about electing the President, whom the constitution declares, and a wish that a coalition form another centre of unity? Is it not clear that what the promoters of these ideas seek, is to cause us to abandon the only road whereby we can arrive at the remedy of our evils, and to conduct us by a tortuous path so as to precipitate us into an abyss?”

The whole of this amounts simply to this, that the editor of the Monitor seeks his “common centre” in the federation, others seek it in a Dictator—others in a coalition of States, and others in a foreign Prince—every man pursues his own party-course, and no one will admit that he may be wrong and others may be right. A state of things more favorable to the Americans could not be imagined, so that after all Washington is likely to be the common centre—the pearl of great price which the Mexicans, by so many different roads, are pretending to be searching for.

General Valencia was in Tula, waiting to be tried by a court martial for the loss of the battle of Padierna.

How far the Mexicans are out of the track of their common centre, will be seen from the following paragraphs published in *La Razon*:

“The State of Sinaloa burns and is consumed with the impure fire of civil discord. The Legislature of Jalisco, it is said, seriously threatens the property of the Church with exorbitant loans, and at the same time, has decreed the free toleration of all religious worship, as if

upon that toleration, so ridiculous and impotent, could depend the salvation of the nation in these moments of public distress. The fact which calls themselves of the Coalition, enemies to annihilate and destroy the wretched remains of our defeated army; substituting in lieu thereof, of their own local militia, with the object of making a peace with the United States, and engage to leave in our Republic, a respectable number of troops as may seem necessary to consolidate the Sovereignty of the various States; and provided there can be made, between both Republics, a treaty of alliance, to resist all times, any hostile project which Europe may attempt against Mexico.”

Our readers will thus see that on the Mexican side, Federation is a tree whose branches hang very loosely round the trunk, and in manner of way, produce all kinds of fruit, some of which are sound and wholesome, and others, they invite the proud Northern Eagle to peck itself proudly on its top.

When the Mexicans adopted the Federal system, they were actuated by a spirit of servility, imitation of the United States, even to the imitation of Territories, and they departed as far as possible from every thing that they had been accustomed to, and understood, in shape of civil government, under the King of Spain. Here they did not imitate the founders of American Independence, who cared to make the least possible change in what they had been trained to, under the King of Great Britain; each of the thirteen Provinces scrupulously preserved its forms, laws and customs, deferring to the Federal Government, what, during its colonial existence, it had been accustomed to defer to the monarch of its mother country. The several States have served the same caution in all changes of their independence; they have wisely submitted themselves to the practical lessons of experience, and hence, without one single revolution, have gathered strength from year to year, they have extended their gigantic Union to the shores of the Pacific, and have the whole Mexican Republic at their mercy.

In throwing off their dependence upon Spain, had the Mexicans established a local government as analogous as possible in its constitution to what they had been accustomed to, and which proved their institutions and laws gradually, this moment they might have formed a power and flourishing empire.

The news reached General Scott, in Mexico on the 14th October, that Santa Anna had routed, at Pual, on the road to Vera Cruz, the 3,000 men of the division of General Terzon.

It was reported that the Royal Mail Steam Co. had made a new arrangement, to come from October, whereby at least eight days be saved in the receipt of correspondence to Europe.

EUROPE.—HORRIBLE ASSASSINATION. IN LIFE, IN PARIS.—The *Monitor*, of the 10th October, contains an extract from the *Journal Marine*, of the 30th of August, stating that on the night of the 19th of that month, the wife of Prasin, a lady much respected for her piety, her domestic and social virtues, was assassinated in her own bed-room. It was said that the Duchess had received the first while she was asleep, as two large spots of blood were found close to her pillow—that she lay up, and while keeping off the assassin with her hand, had endeavored, with the other, to ring the bell-rope, during all which struggling blood was streaming from her—that she towards the door, stumbling upon a table upsetting a chair, both of which were covered with blood—that she had attempted to open the door, and not being able to do it, had run chimney and tried to ring the bell-rope on the side, where she at last fell down and died from loss of blood. It was evident, by looking the traces of the blood, and by the other hands and fingers, that the assassin had lowered her from one place to another, and his blows. From fractures of the skull, contusions on other parts of the body, it was believed that the assassin had finished with the end of his pistol, the murder that he had commenced with the large kitchen knife.

From the Duchess’ room traces of blood led to the apartment and even the bed of the Duchess and her hair, in length and color, was found to correspond exactly with some that was described between the fingers of the murdered Duke. The news next morning spread over all the indignation populace surrounded the Duke’s palace, crying, “The body of this Prasin shall be food for the dogs and the cats.”

The Duke was chief of one of the most noble families of France; God-Father of the King’s family; Gentleman of the Chamber of the Duchess of Orleans, and as a Frenchman, he could only be tried by the Chamber of Peers, sitting as a Tribunal, *ad hoc*.

The Duke was carried to the prison of St. Pierre, where he expired on the 22d, the effects of laudanum and arsenic, administered, was supposed, by himself.

The Duke had nine children by his first wife who was a daughter of Marshal Salas; he had some ten or twelve other children, female attendants of the Duchess and the Duke of her children; and at the time, had a daughter with a female named Luzzi, or Lucy, (English) said to be Italian, and by others (English) wished to obtain a certificate of character from the Duchess, which she refused to grant, other cause for the assassination of the Duke was known but that refusal, which greatly annoyed the Duke. The female Luzzi, or Lucy, had been committed to prison.

On the 28th of August, the Count Alphonse Montesquieu had committed suicide by shooting himself in the heart. He was fifty-five years of age, belonged to an illustrious family, had been an officer of Napoleon; and at the time, was an officer of the Legion of Honor, and a man of Honor of the Queen.

H. B. M.’S. KETCH, BARKLEY.—This vessel, famed in Tahitian History, as being the first, or more, an ark of refuge to Queen Pomare, a bone of contention between the French and English at the Society Islands, after having been condemned and sold here, and rebuilt and fitted in our harbor for two years, has been taken to a mercantile house for a voyage to New England.

THE S. I. NEWS.—We are glad to perceive that this paper has at length secured the services of an editor. The last number contained “Inaugural” of the new Editor, John G. M. Esq.